

FTM GROUP SCHEDULES MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS

By popular demand, the members of the FTM Group now have three different types of meetings available to them: Informational, Social and Support. Beginning with the July 7, 1991 Informational meeting, there will be meetings once each month, and these meetings will rotate through the three types.

Informational meetings are the traditional meetings the group is accustomed to having four times each year. We usually have a guest speaker, or a film, or a discussion topic on which to focus. These meetings are open to FTM TS's and TV's, their friends, supportive family members and significant others, as well as to supportive physicians and therapists.

Social meetings are intended to provide a chance to get together and shoot the breeze in a less formal setting, usually centered around some type of casual activity, such as a picnic. These meetings are open to the larger community, including anyone who wishes to meet and socialize with FTM's. Members are free to invite all their friends.

Support meetings are specifically for FTM TV's and TS's ONLY!! These meetings are usually held in someone's home, where FTM's can relax and talk with each other about the sometimes painful or delicate issues that they are facing in their lives.

Because we have planned out the next six months worth of meetings, we will NOT be sending out separate mailings announcing the get-togethers. We'll publish the schedule and the contact names and numbers in advance in each issue of this newsletter (which we'll continue to distribute in conjunction with the informational meetings four times each year). If you plan to attend a meeting, telephone the contact person during the month prior to the meeting to find out the meeting time and place. PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEFINITIONS OF THE INTENDED AUDIENCE FOR EACH TYPE OF MEETING!!

Here's the schedule for the next six months:

- AUG. 4 '91 SOCIAL PICNIC
SAN FRANCISCO 2-5pm
Contact Sky [redacted]
- SEPT. 8 '91 SUPPORT 2-5pm
Contact Billy & Josh [redacted] or
Michael [redacted]
- OCT. 13 '91 INFORMATIONAL
SAN FRANCISCO MCC Rm 108 2-5pm
Contact James [redacted]
- NOV. 10 '91 SOCIAL
Contact Sky [redacted]
- DEC. 8 '91 SUPPORT 2-5pm
Contact Billy & Josh [redacted] or
Michael [redacted]
- JAN. 19 '92 INFORMATIONAL 2-5pm
Contact James [redacted]

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!!

17th GET-TOGETHER MARKS LOU'S PASSING

Approximately forty people, including three MTF's (and one partner), two therapists, a half dozen partners of FTM's, and two representatives of ETVc attended the 17th FTM Get-Together. James introduced himself and talked about Lou Sullivan, the founder of the FTM group who died of complications of AIDS last March. He invited anyone who wished to speak of Lou, or of their feelings about his passing to do so, and many people let out what was in their hearts. TS playwright Kate Bornstein spoke movingly about being at the OUT/Write (Gay and Lesbian) writer's conference, about to speak on a panel, when she was informed of Lou's death the day before. She spoke of his personal bravery and his dedication to his community. Others spoke of the impact Lou had on their lives and the sense of loss they felt without him. James spoke about the future of the FTM group and invited everyone to participate and contribute to the group's on-going success. He talked about the need for money to sustain the newsletter. ETVc generously contributed \$210.00, a check for which was presented by Ginny and Don. Many FTM members reached into their pockets as well to donate cash to defray expenses. Shane exhorted the membership to take responsibility for keeping the organization running and to expand the group's activities. In response to this, James asked anyone who was interested in participating on a leadership committee to meet later. One result of this discussion was the expanded meeting schedule that has been developed. Several other members made excellent suggestions about fundraising and proposals concerning how to conduct our meetings. James expressed his gratitude to everyone for coming and for participating, and he opened the meeting up to informal discussion and networking.

THANK YOU-THANK YOU-THANK YOU

Response to the call for donations in the last issue of the FTM Newsletter (Issue #15) has been gratifying: We have approximately \$400.00 in our treasury account, enough to publish two issues of the newsletter, providing we don't have to pay printing costs. If you haven't contributed to FTM this year, please consider a contribution to keep this newsletter coming. Again, very special thanks to the members of ETVc for their generous support!

The J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency's consumer research department asked 2000 people in 50 "regionally representative locations across the U.S." 1800 questions in an effort to find out what Americans really think. When asked "What are you willing to do for \$10 million? 25% said they would abandon their family; 23% said they would become a prostitute for a week; 16% said they would renounce their U.S. citizenship; 7% said they would kill a stranger; and 4% said they would have a sex-change operation. It's interesting that more people think it would be easier for them to kill someone than to change sex! Or maybe we should look at this another way: 4% of the population expressing a willingness to undergo sex reassignment is a pretty high percentage! If this level of demand were serious, maybe the price would come down!!

FTM MALE BOX

Dear FTM,

On behalf of the Sullivan Family, let me thank all of you for the kind and loving words you said about Lou in memorial. We appreciated the big turn out at the funeral and are sure that Lou was looking down in amazement that you all cared for him so much as he often said in his life.

Lou died exactly how he wanted to: quietly at home in his bed—no tubes, machines or doctors. He was apparently incognizant and in no obvious pain when I came to him that morning. He died in my arms several hours later. (It was my birthday and consider that a special bond that I will cherish each passing year). It was a very simple, pure and actually beautiful passing. He said often how he had accomplished everything he wanted to and was so relieved when Denis and Jamie offered to keep the newsletter going. It meant so much to Lou that the FTM newsletter continued.

Sexual orientation and its transition to acceptance was the most important thing in Lou's life. Please keep the flame burning, the newsletter reaching all who want it and "the cause" an important tool in your own transition to acceptance.

As Lou would have said in the face of criticism—
"Ahh fuckem!"

Most sincerely,
Lou's Sister, Maryellen Sullivan Hanley

Dear FTM,

I was greatly saddened by the news of Lou's death. Our friendship lasted ten years and I feel a great personal loss. In addition, as a member of the FTM community I feel the loss of a dedicated man who worked tirelessly in networking with other FTM transsexuals and educating professionals, especially in the area of gay FTM. In fact it is on account of his identification as a gay FTM that I first came to know him. Ten years ago I had a rare condition which no one knew anything about. I was afflicted with two seemingly diametrically opposed conditions of FTM transsexualism and male homosexuality. A FTM friend of mine coincidentally came in contact with Lou when he wrote to the Janus Foundation (now defunct) for information about sex reassignment surgery. He received a personal letter from Lou, who was a volunteer there, describing himself as a gay FTM and wanting to meet others like himself. When my friend showed me this letter I was filled with immense joy because I no longer felt like an anomaly, for there were others like myself. Later, after I met Lou and established a friendship with him, I was able to begin the process of accepting my own sexual orientation.

I am very thankful that Lou had the courage to speak out and reveal his sexual orientation in order to network with others. He paid a price, for I know at least one prominent surgeon refused to perform surgery on him because he did not fit the "typical" profile of a FTM. In addition, he fought against ostracism within segments of the TS community itself. Recently, progress has been made and at least some professionals are beginning to accept homosexual transsexuals. I attribute the turnaround due to persons such as Lou who have spoken out against the heterosexist bias that has traditionally pervaded gender reassignment programs.

I will always remember Lou for the great humanitarian that he was. He worked tirelessly for establishing a FTM community, a newsletter and a resourceful information manual for the FTM. He was always willing to be helpful. The FTM community should never forget Lou, for he was, in a sense, one of its major founders. Let us not let the memory of him ever die.

Joseph Ellman

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WHEN IT'S SAFE ENOUGH TO TELL THE TRUTH, FREEDOM CAN FOLLOW.

G.N.A.

Matthew T. Doutré, Director
Sex Educator-Lecturer-Liaison For Gender
Issues-Counseling-Referrals
Consultations
Gender Networking Assocs. 313-292-5034

THE MAN INSIDE

You sat in the park
Beautifully crossing your legs
On a bench opposite mine
My eyes discreetly but completely
Devoured you with X-ray vision
Invisible hands touching your breasts
Like all men do when in the presence
Of sweet radiance like yours.
You looked at me, then through me,
Like all women do when looking at
Their reflection in a mirror.

You walked away, fed the ducks,
My eyes followed you down the path
As you disappeared through the trees.
Tonight I will go to the women's bar
Try to find someone as pretty as you
A touch, dance, kiss perhaps,
But I'm not one of them;
The man inside wants out,
To be seen more
Than their reflection in a mirror.

Francis, July 1990

Dear FTM,

I was a friend of Lou Sullivan's and had correspondence with him since 1984. I am a FTM Transvestite, a straight man inside, who has always known that my soul is a man's. I live 3,000 miles away from San Francisco, in New England and yet, Lou was the most special friend I have ever had.

Lou was my very first validator as a FTM. Because of him, I became able to identify myself openly as a FTM TV. Before Lou, I had no language for my man soul and absolutely no support.

Weeks after Lou's death, I continue to grieve.

I will never forget the precious 4 hour talk with Lou one Spring afternoon in Lou's apartment at the time when he first began to feel the effects of AIDS. I came in making small talk about Lou's birds and photography, but Lou would have none of it. He sat me down in his kitchen, looked me deeply in the eyes and insisted on talking man-soul to man-soul. In my 41 years, I have never experienced a conversation so deep as this one. And, in sum, I have never experienced a friend who gave me so much.

Lou's gift to me was voice and visibility for my identity. It was space in the world for my man-soul to live.

Lou's death was a tremendous loss for me. Some mornings I wake up and ask myself, "Was it me who died?" I am concerned that I may return to an isolated place of not enough support now that this dear man, who was my main FTM support has gone.

I am interested in corresponding with other FTM TV's or TS's who were similarly impacted by Lou. Perhaps we can share our grief, our loss, our fears and our future plans. If you were also a friend of Lou's, please write to me and I will surely respond.

Bet Power

■ Riverbank Rd
Northampton, MA 01060-2517

TRIBUTE TO LOU SULLIVAN

Lou was the first female-to-male transsexual I met. At the time he faced an uphill struggle for recognition. Of course, that didn't stop him. That was Lou. He didn't let others dissuade him from what he knew to be true about himself.

He was also an activist who worked tirelessly to make female-to-male transsexuality respectable. Yet he never received full recognition for his accomplishments while he was alive.

I remember when I read the first edition of the handbook. It was funny, straightforward and clearly written. Lou wrote from his heart and a desire to communicate. What impressed me most about it was here was someone writing about the real things of the transsexual experience: how to use the bathroom, what to expect from and how to act around other men, and other tips and information. I was envious: at the time I wished someone would write something in the same vein from a male-to-female point of view, instead of the tired old story of hormones, surgery and very little of the actual experience of living as a woman.

The second thing was the amount of information it contained about other female-to-male transsexuals and women who passed as men. Far from being an isolated occurrence, Lou showed how it was something that has existed down through the ages.

The fact that Lou wrote from a female-to-male perspective never bothered me. It was another transsexual's experience, and as such inherently valuable. I related to what Lou wrote because he wrote from the perspective of someone with a transposed gender identity. Perhaps we are like ships passing in the night, but we're the only ships on an ocean most people will never see. By writing so honestly about himself and the FTM experience he showed the common aspects of gender dysphoria for all transsexuals, FTM and MTF.

Female to male transsexual identity is still one of those things people don't want to see and whose reality people try to deny. It is Lou's legacy and success that he has made that denial that much harder to do.

Jill Enquist

Dear FTM readers,

For those of you I haven't yet met I'd like to introduce myself. In 1970, immediately following high school, I began living full-time as a man. For ten years I was closeted, mainly out of fear. While I was married and could talk with my partner about FTM issues, she never really could understand how I felt. So I began to look for support. Fear kept me from going to a well established support group here in Seattle. But, I finally did. After about a year I was asked to go public and talk with counselors, teachers and students (at the college level) about being FTM. Eventually, I was asked to do a local TV show which led in 1987 to doing the "Geraldo" show with my partner. This work led me back to doing research on TS/TV/Cross-dressing issues. Presently, I am pursuing a PhD in anthropology. While my dissertation will deal with these issues I'm not sure in what way as of now.

This leads me, however, to why I am writing to you, the readers of FTM. As we all are aware we've lost a pioneer. I was fortunate enough to meet Lou for the first time last year. We spent time together in San Francisco in March and June, and in September when he visited Seattle for one of our gatherings. In June I asked Lou to autograph my copy of From Female to Male. He inscribed it as follows: To Jason, another pioneer. Carry the Torch!

I've decided that I am only one of many of us who can, should and will carry the torches. For a long time I have wanted to work on a project that would expand the information Lou had about our predecessors in Information for the Female to Male. While I have collected a lot of information about a few individuals I know there is still much more out there. This is where readers of FTM can help. When you read about someone in Information for the Female to Male was there someone you wanted to know more about? Did you try to find more information? Or, is there someone you read about in your local paper? Would you be willing to contribute information for a project that would be published? If so, send copies with clear references (title of publication, dates, page numbers, etc.). Think of all the little blurbs about folks that Lou gathered for Information for the Female to Male, wouldn't it be wonderful if we had more information on each one collected in one volume? Also, I am interested in writing a biography of Lou. If you, or someone you know has a story to share or personal information about Lou's history please contribute this also.

The leg-work for projects like this would nearly be impossible (or take a lifetime) but if readers of FTM are willing to help by contributing what information they can it would certainly be a success and do-able within a few years. I welcome suggestions, ideas and other input concerning these two projects. Write and/or send contributions to the following address: 6113 39th Ave. So., Seattle WA 98118.

Jason Cromwell

RESOURCE UPDATES:

Support group in Seattle meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Jason Cromwell is the contact person and his phone number is 206/723-8805

Portland, Oregon hosts FTM & MTF meetings. Please contact Scott A. McPherson at 205 Valley View Dr., Oregon City, OR 97045 or call the "hotline" at 503/292-0391 and leave a message with Nancy.

We no longer have an address for John A. at F2M in the New Jersey or New York City area.

NETWORKING COLUMN

Is there anyone out there who can lend emotional support to someone who just doesn't know who or what they are? I was born female but have a body hairier than most if not all men. I have female genitals but would prefer male genitalia. I look like a female, but yearn to be a gay male. I weigh twice as much as I should but use the weight as a shield. Can anyone understand the frustration of wanting to be something you can never be? The loneliness, utter despair and severe emotional trauma one goes through? If so, I'd sure love you to lend a hand. Please write:

LAC
Box 673
S. Dartmouth, MA 02748

I am an FTM pre-op who identifies as bi-sexual, bi-gendered. I am currently living and working in Los Angeles, but enjoy visiting friends in the Bay Area. This usually involves one weekend a month or thereabouts. I am interested in finding someone with whom I could stay for that one weekend a month and am open to any reasonable exchange (SF, Oakland, or anywhere nearby if on a regular bus line). Thanks, I look forward to hearing from you.

Kevin Horwitz
[redacted] Palms Blvd., [redacted]
Los Angeles, CA 90066
[redacted]

Dear FTM,

I would like to correspond with other FTM's in Colorado. I have written FTM before and was grateful to receive letters from various other FTM'ers. Thanks!

Presently I live in a very small town in Iowa. Knowing that I will eventually have to move and knowing how much I enjoyed Colorado, I would like to hear from you. I would like to buzz out sometime this summer for a visit. Please write—I will respond to all my letters. Thanks for everything FTM.

Thad

I am pre-op in a small town, so please address the letters to:
Mary Sue Cigrand
[redacted] 4th Ave, S.W.
Cascade, Iowa 52033

FTM NEWSLETTER

For the female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual.
Published quarterly since 1986
Send correspondence and contributions to:

FTM
1827 Haight Street, #164
San Francisco, CA 94117



Window of Opportunity

The Water Table



The Pepsi Lite



The Cross-Dresser



INGERSOLL CENTER

Ingersoll Gender Center exists to provide support for transsexuals and transvestites, their families, and significant others. Services are offered dealing with the issues of daily living, changes in lifestyle, preparation for surgery when appropriate, and post-operative counseling and support.

Ingersoll Gender Center is a non-profit service agency incorporated in the State of Washington in 1984. Ingersoll currently has several therapists working under contract, each of whom has extensive experience in the field of gender identity counseling and other areas of expertise. Ingersoll Gender Center is thus able to offer a full range of services to gender dysphoric clients.

Ingersoll adheres to the guidelines established by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. These standards specify necessary therapy for hormonal and surgical sex reassignment. Physicians and surgeons working with the Center also follow the Benjamin Standards. Upon meeting the requirements of the Benjamin standards, hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery may be obtained with the written recommendation of Ingersoll therapists.

The Center does not subscribe to any one particular theory of the origin of gender dysphoria and welcomes individuals with diverse gender identity issues and any socio-economic background. The goal at Ingersoll is to enable the individual to have improved intrapersonal and interpersonal relations, increased stability in employment and self-confidence in social situations so that the person can more clearly define their gender role.

For further information please contact:

Ingersoll Center
1812 East Madison, Suite 106
Seattle, WA 98122-2843
(206) 329-6651, voice
(206) 242-8574, BBS

The following article originally appeared in Wavelength, the newsletter for Sapph-SIG, which is a lesbian special interest group of Mensa. It is reprinted here with permission from the author.

A Crossdresser's Closet: A Different Kind of "Coming Out"

by Sandy Bernstein

My name is Sandy. I am a lesbian and a crossdresser. These are just three of the many labels I use to identify myself. I chose one of these identities (my name). The other two are an unalterable part of who I am.

Some people believe that I wear men's clothing to make a fashion statement. Others believe that I wear men's clothing to make a social or political statement. They are wrong. I wear men's clothing because I am a crossdresser.

In many ways, being a crossdresser is like being a lesbian. Most of the lesbians I know believe they did not choose to be a lesbian. They did, however, at some point, choose to acknowledge that part of themselves. I was 30 years old when I chose to identify myself as a lesbian. In retrospect, I know this part of myself was lying dormant all my life, waiting for my acceptance.

I have been a crossdresser all my life, as well. I did not choose to be a crossdresser. It is a part of me that has always been there, waiting for my acceptance.

Having sexual relations with another woman is not what makes someone a lesbian. A woman is a lesbian, not because of what she does, but because of how she feels about herself in relation to other women. A lesbian who is celibate is still a lesbian.

So, too, it is not the clothing which makes a person a crossdresser, but the individual's feelings about her/himself. While being a crossdresser is not a matter of choice, crossdressing is. I am a crossdresser, who acknowledges it by choosing to crossdress.

The term "transvestite" is just the Latin word for "crossdresser." Most male crossdressers are heterosexual, and most female crossdressers are lesbians. Unlike preoperative transsexuals, crossdressers are comfortable with their physical gender. I am a woman, who enjoys being a woman who looks like a man.

I use the term "drag" to mean putting on clothing which is foreign to the wearer. For most people, putting on clothing of the other sex is drag. For me—a female crossdresser—putting on women's clothing is drag.

When I tell people I feel more comfortable in men's clothing, I don't mean physical comfort (anyone who has ever properly worn a men's tie, knows it is not physically comfortable). When I wear men's clothing, I feel a deep sense of satisfaction. It feels very right, emotionally. I feel free. I feel sexy. I like what I see when I look at myself in the mirror. I like the positive acknowledgment I get from some women when they look at me in a way which tells me they like what they see. I believe I look better in a suit and tie than I do in a dress. I feel emotionally uncomfortable when I think of myself wearing women's clothing. I own a dinner jacket (tuxedo), and I enjoy wearing it much, much more than I ever did a gown.

My earliest memory of choosing to crossdress was at the age of five. I asked my mother if I might wear my navy blue shorts to school. The shorts had been my older brother's. They had a fly in front. I liked them, very much. In the Spring of 1957, women's shorts and slacks never had a zipper in front. When these garments had a zipper, it was either on the left side seam or on the back seam. Girls never wore shorts to school, and girls wore pants to school (under their dress, skirt, or jumper) only on very cold days. My shorts were obviously boy's shorts. My

mother said it was OK for me to wear my shorts to school; so, I did. My classmates made fun of me, so I never wore shorts to school again. I continued to conform by wearing a dress or blouse with a skirt or jumper.

My play clothes were quite different from my school clothes. I have a very clear image of myself in a red, wool baseball cap, with my short hair tucked underneath it, a Superman T-shirt, blue dungarees (that is what we called jeans back then), girl's white ankle socks and red sneakers (with off-white rubber covering the toes). I was never a jock, but I liked to look like one.

When I was a high school student, I used to pass through the center of town to get to school. I remember window shopping at the men's clothing stores, wishing I could wear some of the jackets, ties, and other clothes displayed there. I falsely believed that men's clothing would never fit me properly, that I would never look good in it.

By the time I graduated from college, I was finding I had less and less desire to wear formal or semiformal women's attire. I didn't understand why. I just thought I hated formality. I enjoyed wearing men's jeans, T-shirts, men's plaid flannel shirts, men's watches, and other men's clothing. I labeled myself androgynous.

I began to avoid weddings and other "dressy affairs," because dressing "properly" for these occasions became more and more difficult, emotionally. Eventually, I refused to wear skirts and dresses. The only pants I found acceptable, were men's jeans.

I bought my first men's suit when I was 34. With the help of a gay male friend, I got the courage to go shopping for men's business attire. I learned that a good tailor can fit me properly. I found the dreams I had in high school were coming true.

I wore a men's suit to work for the first time when I was 36. I had just moved to California, and was just starting my own business. I was scared, but—since it was what I wanted to do—my friends encouraged me to wear a men's suit to interviews. A few days after starting my first contract, my client asked me to wear a tie to work. His request shocked me—because I was trying to go as far as I could without upsetting anyone—and he was asking me to go further. That night I bought 3 ties. I wore one of them to work the next morning. To my delight, no one appeared surprised when he/she saw me. My client was the only person who had any reaction—he told me he liked my tie.

I progressed rapidly after buying my first ties. I bought better suits, more ties, men's undershirts, wing tip shoes, men's formal wear, and finally men's underpants.

I discovered through trial and error that I prefer men's tapered boxers to men's briefs, bikinis, or full-cut boxers. My underpants were the last women's clothing to be removed from my wardrobe. It was very scary for me to make that last switch; but, having done it, I feel truly liberated. All my women's underpants were white cotton briefs; but my tapered boxer shorts are a wide variety of colors, in assorted solids, stripes, and plaids. Each morning, I enjoy picking out my boxer more than I do my suit and tie. It doesn't matter if I am the only person who will see my underwear that day. I do it for me, and that feels good, on a deep, emotional level.

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I am writing a book about women who wear men's clothing. If you are a female crossdresser, or a woman who wears men's clothing for any other reason, please write to me at:

P.O. Box 361925
Milpitas, CA 95036

SPEAKING OF GENDER

The arena of gender differentness is large, complex, and continually evolving. In fact, some gender related definitions that have inhabited medical journals for eons seem, in retrospect, oddly simplistic.

Take the definition of a transsexual - someone who is at odds with (or trapped in) his or her genetic body and who strongly identifies with the other anatomic gender. Somebody who is literally offended by their existing body and wants it changed, no matter the pain or expense.

This is a solid timely definition which unfortunately excludes a good many TS's whose boundaries are not absolute. Consider the female-to-gay-male who might gladly pay a million dollars to rid himself of those 'boulders' on his chest but is not at all 'literally offended' by his vagina, and even uses it with male partners? Sure, if a surgeon from another planet offered to construct him a normal, 8" cock, he would toss that vagina into the spare parts bin. Reality being reality though, he goes by the adage 'use what you've got until you get what you want.'

Conversely, think about the MTF who feels so entirely female that she winces if some jerk on the street reads her and calls her sir. Maybe she is fairly comfortable, tho, keeping her penis, and doesn't think of it as the 'dreaded instrument'.

These hypothetical persons are both honest-to-goodness transsexuals. They are also trail blazers and pioneers.

Gender seems to represent a belief system rather than an outcome. This is probably why terms like transgender and gender dysphoria have, of late, jumped into the nomenclature. Dysphoria implies discomfort, which is a relatively mild form of 'trapped in'.

Transgender often refers to someone with a transsexual belief system, but for whom surgery is not an issue. Persons who identify as Transgenderists expand our sensings about gender by opening the door marked 'existential'. The fear of not getting letters for surgery has, in the past, kept this door hermetically sealed.

Perhaps as more of us honestly experience and communicate our states of being with friends, we can formulate our own concepts. We can begin to incorporate our ideas and feelings into the existing knowledge base. This will give us a more powerful voice as regards surgeons, surgical procedures, endocrinologists, psychiatrists, and other potential hazards.

Written by Kevin Horwitz

FTM NEWSLETTER

Editor
Typesetting/Layout
Printing

James Green
Sky Renfro
Francis

WHATS HAPPENING IN LOS ANGELES

Marie Keller, MFCT/gender specialist, would like to invite those in the LA area to her Wednesday evening support group. She would also like to hear from anyone who has gotten their upper or lower surgery and is willing to discuss its merits and liabilities. She is gathering information as a resource for pre-op's (in both directions) to help them decide who, what, and if. She would like to find out about costs, types of procedures (i.e. drawstring, genitoplasty with or without urinary extension, phalloplasty with or without micro or without vaginectomy, or anything unusual you may have selected in the way of modifications). Especially helpful would be a black and white photo of the surgery. Contact her at:

MARIE KELLER, MFCT
3331 Ocean Park Blvd., #100
Santa Monica, CA 90405
(213) 392-1920

or contact

JULIEN STILZ, MFCC Intern
(213) 462-1816

BOOKS

"Hormones", by Sheila Kirk, M.D. International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE). P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. \$8.00

Review by William A. Henkin, M.A., MFCC

Most people in the gender community who want information about hormones must either do a lot of library research, or rely on second hand information from others. Since hormones can effect the body profoundly, it is only sensible to understand their sudden impacts. But not everyone wants to search out and interpret the professional jargon of academic medical journals, and the information lay people provide may have been second hand when they got it. What to do?

One answer is Sheila Kirk's "Hormones", a new handbook intended for use by non medical people in the gender community. It is brief, easy to read, informed, informative, and to the point. While she does not try to tell you everything you ever wanted to know about hormones and what they'll do for you, Dr. Kirk does provide "a little" information about anatomy and biophysiology, discusses the sex hormones in both genetic males and genetic females, and explains the functions, benefits, and liabilities of estrogen, progesterone, and anti-androgen therapy for the MTF, and androgen therapy for the FTM. She provides a short guide to "hormones you can buy," and begins her book with an adamant warning about black-market hormones, hormones prescribed for someone else, and hormones taken without adequate medical supervision.

The only question I have about anything in this book is Dr. Kirk's statement concerning androgen-induced clitoral growth in the FTM. "The reports in the medical literature record length of three to six centimeters (1-1/2 to 3 inches) approximately," she says. "It can function somewhat in sexual arousal and orgasm, but only phalloplasty will provide what the individual truly desires." Not all FTMs truly desire penetration size penises, and for those who do phalloplasty is rarely fully satisfactory. Still, to have only one quibble in 60 pages is to think very highly of a book, and I do.

Dr. Kirk has brought an experienced medical eye to the homework she has done for you. Recently retired from private practice as an obstetrician and gynecologist and as Assistant Clinical Professor of Ob/Gyn at the University of Pittsburgh, she is a member of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, and a member of the IFGE Board of Directors/Executive Committee; she has been a member of the Outreach Institute, President of TransPitt, and Director of Be All convention in Pittsburgh. In addition to papers she has written for the medical community she is author of previous booklets such as "How to Find a Doctor" and "How to Be a Good Medical Consumer". In April she received the IFGE Trinity Award for extraordinary service to the CD/TS community. "Hormones" is another example of her gracious service.

The Cavalry Maiden: Journals of a Female Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars, by Nadezhda Durova, trans. by Mary Fleming Zirin, Angel Books London, 1988 ISBN 0-946162-35-2
Review by Kevin Horowitz

Cavalry Maiden represents one more link in the growing historical chain of women who passed as men. Historical buffs will be especially interested in this 242 page monograph, because of its value as a 'period piece,' that is, an idiosyncratic description of a narrow realm of existence during 19th century Russia. This is actually a 'military memoir,' written by Nadezhda Durova, and translated by Mary Fleming Zirin. Durova assumed a male persona in order to pursue a military career in Emperor Alexander I's Hussar regiment. Specifically, she fought in the Napoleonic Wars of 1807 and 1812-16.

The bulk of this autobiography is distilled from actual journal fragments Durova managed to write during 'slack' times in the cavalry. She was a short woman with an hour-glass figure, but her face was naturally swarthy and squared-off. Therefore, with a cropped haircut, she was readily taken for a young boy. Her military success depended not only on passing as a man, but also upon quick reflexes, an affinity for horses, and an ability to adapt to military maneuvers, etc.

The journals are interesting, and read more like fiction than autobiography. This is partly because they were revised numerous times prior to the first printing in 1836. In addition, Durova takes a great deal of poetic license, throughout. This has the effect of wearing the credibility a bit thin. For instance, it is difficult to imagine that she could have written journals while riding a horse, or that she could have been thrown out of a speeding carriage as a baby without being seriously injured.

Cavalry Maiden is a good read, and packs in lots of information without being dry or academic sounding. Someone who is interested in historical biography will be especially pleased with this work. Somebody without such an interest might be somewhat less pleased, but will nevertheless find the effort worthwhile

Gluck - Her Biography, by Diana Souhami, Pandora Press, 1988

Review by Francis

Gluck was an unusual person; a highly skilled English artist, born in 1895 of upper class stock. This is an interesting biography, filled with details, excerpts from her correspondence to and from lovers and friends (she was a prolific letter writer), and photos of her work, circle of friends and self. At age 24, she looked like a handsome young man dressed in fashionable men's clothes she had designed. From her very early years, she insisted on wearing men's clothing, the earliest being borrowed from her brothers and father, and personally altered, later ordering the best from Schiaparelli. She always went by "Gluck", with a lover nick-naming her "Peter". She painted a dual portrait of them with the caption "we are not an affair - we are husband and wife." She dated and seduced married society women, living with several for long periods of time. The book paints her as depressed and neurotic, and irritating to those who knew her, but those masculine traits of assertiveness, decisiveness and discipline led to many flawlessly beautiful paintings of flowers and people, as well as her challenging a well-known manufacturer of paints to improve their quality and eventually standardize colors of all brands.

I found Gluck's life inspiring, and quite interesting in all the possible but unprovable clues that at least psychologically, she thought and lived as a man. In those times, with her background and money, women such as Gluck were seen as eccentric, and labelled either lesbian or a member of a 'third sex'. I recommend "Gluck" for many reasons, not the least of which are its portraits of her various friends who fully accepted her as she chose to be.



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GENDER CONFERENCE IN GEORGIA THIS FALL

Dr. Sheila Kirk (author of *Hormones*--see review elsewhere in this issue) and Dr. David Gilbert (noted micro-surgeon) will be among the featured speakers at the Southern Comfort Convention, October 3-6, 1991 in Atlanta Georgia.

Touted as "the south's first major gender event," registration for the full convention is \$175.00.

For more information or to register, contact one of the following host groups;

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